

RECOMMENDATIONS.

To aid in the accomplishment of the work here outlined for the progress and development of the public school system, I beg to make the following recommendations:

1. That there shall be little interference with the present school law, which I believe to be the best school law that the State has ever had. The people and the school officers are beginning to become acquainted with the law and to be familiar with its workings. Some additions seem to be necessary, but there should be few changes and no radical changes. It will be wise to seek to continue to progress along the lines already marked out by the present school law and to begin to have a permanent educational policy.

2. That section 4167 of the Public School Law be so amended as to require the appropriation of at least two hundred dollars biennially by each county for conducting one or more teachers' institutes and summer schools in that county. (See preceding pages of this report under heading "Improvement of County Institutes and Summer Schools").

3. That the special appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars for the public schools be continued, because at present there is little hope of getting a four months' school in many counties without it, and the State cannot afford to permit the public school term to be decreased.

4. That section 4119 of the Public School Law be so amended as to make the term of office of the members of the County Board of Education six years, so arranged that the term of one member of the board shall expire every two years. By retaining a majority of old members on the board each year the possibility of a radical change in the educational policy of the county every two years will be prevented, and the danger of mistakes from the administration of school affairs by new and inexperienced men will be avoided. Under this plan at least two of the three members of the County Board of Education, unless they resign, will have had at all times not less than four years' experience in the management of the public schools. Under the present plan it frequently happens that an entirely new board without any experience or any acquaintance with the educational conditions and needs of the county is appointed every two years. Logically, the term of office of at least a majority of the members of the County Boards of Education should be the same as that of the State Superintendent and the State Board of Education. The advantages of this change will be apparent as a business proposition to any man of business experience. The results of the work and plans of the County Board of Education and County Superintendent cannot be fairly tested in less than four years.

5. That an annual State appropriation of ten thousand dollars for five State District Summer Schools be made. (See preceding pages of this report under heading "State District Summer Schools").

6. That the General Assembly shall make a special annual appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars to aid and encourage high school instruction in the public schools and the establishment of public high schools. (See preceding pages of this report under heading "Public High Schools").